



Committee On Finance

Max Baucus, Ranking Member

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Statement of Senator Max Baucus Regarding the Breakdown of Trade Talks at World Trade Organization Ministerial

(WASHINGTON, D.C.) U.S. Senator Max Baucus, Ranking Democrat on the Senate Finance Committee, issued the following statement concerning the results of the World Trade Organization Ministerial in Cancun this past weekend.

“This is a very disappointing and unfortunate outcome. I went to Cancun in a hopeful frame of mind. I worked very hard, as did the other Members who attended the Ministerial, to make it clear that the United States is willing to do its share – and then some – to make the Doha Development Round a success.”

“Unfortunately, some of our trading partners were not as willing to step up and contribute to a positive outcome. In a consensus-based organization like the WTO, there cannot be countries that only give and countries that only take.”

“Frankly, those who think they stand to benefit from this week’s turn of events are deceiving themselves. With innovations in technology and communications drawing the economies of the world ever closer together, we need more than ever to keep up the momentum toward a truly level playing field for trade. Only then can countries at all levels of development maximize their chances of succeeding in a globalized world.”

“I want to thank Ambassador Zoellick and his team for their incredibly hard work before and during this Ministerial. The process of trade liberalization in the WTO has seen setbacks before. I know our trade negotiators will keep working toward getting the WTO process back on track.”

“In the meantime, the United States should continue to pursue our trade goals through bilateral and regional free trade agreements. It has not gone unnoticed that some of the same countries that took hard-line positions in Cancun are negotiating or proposing to negotiate free trade agreements with the United States. Whatever our differences in the WTO, we should not refuse to negotiate with these countries if our commercial interests in their markets are sound. But this week’s events do put the onus on them to undertake the kind of comprehensive commitments which form the basis of all our FTAs.”

“Access to the large and vibrant U.S. market remains our best leverage in opening markets around the world. We must continue to use that leverage well.”